



Pandora's Hope: Aia nô i ka nânâ`ana
(We'll see what the future brings)

Kauai. Where science and nature collide.
 A documentary short about the hidden side of paradise, by Kit Farrell

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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 Website, trailer & screen times: <http://pandoras-hope.com>
 Personal website: <http://kitfarrell.com>

DOWNLOAD THIS EPK

English: <http://pandoras-hope.com/wp-content/epk/epk.eng.pdf.zip>



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SHORT SYNOPSIS

Pandora's Hope is a short documentary about a side of Kauai, Hawaii, rarely seen by the millions of visitors who come seeking paradise on earth. It shines daylight on secretive corporate & government research; growing trends in open source science; and the urgent need for transparency and ethical responsibility worldwide.

SYNOPSIS

Pandora's Hope is a short documentary film that follows Kit Farrell, a young journalist and filmmaker, as she explores a side of Kauai, Hawaii rarely seen by the millions of visitors who come seeking paradise on earth. Through a series of interviews with local scientists, activists, philanthropists, Hawaiian culture experts, and more, Kit illustrates that in addition to the idyllic landscape, Kauai is home to high tech missile defense, agrochemical biotech, acres of GMO crops, and controversial genetic research.

Kit meets with members of GMO-Free Kauai and Hawaii SEED, who make the case for transitioning away from genetic engineering in local agriculture. She also meets with Kauai Open Source Science Alliance (KOSSA), a group of local philanthropists who seek to fund cutting-edge genetic research with a transparency that would undermine Monsanto, SAIC, and other corporations making billions from proprietary information. They posit that a less profit-driven mode of research and development will ultimately benefit humanity.

For local accident victim Warren Dastrup, groups like KOSSA may hold the key to reversing his devastating spinal cord injury. But when Kit meets a local fisherman who has agreed to undergo highly experimental cross-species genetic therapy, it becomes clear that questions of ethical responsibility remain regardless of whether research is universally accessible or under lock and key.

Kit's journey ultimately stirs up questions about how we balance the need for progress with our basic human rights, not to mention natural concerns about what evils might be unleashed in the process.



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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In my short life I've had the fortune of visiting Kauai many times. Through my network of family friends and acquaintances, I began to see this Hawaiian island as more than an idyllic vacation spot. At some point, it occurred to me that this "paradise" is a microcosm, albeit a surprising one, of issues that are going on all over the world.

Initially, what piqued my interest more than anything was the surprising acreage of GMO crops covering an island that used to be a major sugar cane producer. GMO labeling is a hot topic right now, and I felt compelled to delve into how this big business is affecting the local island community as well as the country at large. This investigation led me in a number of surprising directions, where I was exposed to other instances of research and development conducted on the island, from highly secretive U.S. military missile defense, to locally funded independent genetic experimentation.

I wanted to create a short piece that was a montage of this seemingly disparate, but truly connected kaleidoscope of research and experimentation. I wanted to explore the current ethical and financial realities of scientific innovation and how they affect each of us personally regarding the food we eat, our health, and our general well-being.

I hope to get viewers thinking about corporate or government ownership of research and product development (in food, medicine, military, etc.) and whether or not the resulting lack of transparency poses potential hazards to people and the environment. As citizens of the United States of America, are we not guaranteed a certain degree of self-determination, the ability to choose what we do to or put in our bodies? On the one hand, we are literally being force-fed industrially created food with unknown long-term effects on our health and the environment. On the other hand, some of us are willing to be human guinea pigs to help find cures for medical conditions or dental conditions, also with unknown long term effects on our health and the environment.

In my mind, it all boils down to the need for transparency, ethical responsibility, and the obligation to protect the planet and everyone on it. This is what I hope to get people thinking about in my debut film, *Pandora's Hope*.



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BIO

Kit Farrell is a New York City based journalist and filmmaker. She attended San Francisco State University on a CSU Presidential Scholarship and graduated cum laude with a degree in Broadcast and Electronic Communication Arts. Kit has worked with White Elephant Productions in New York City to introduce educational films on stress management, eating disorders, and body image to at-risk students across the city. Her debut film, Pandora's Hope, exposes the hidden side of paradise on Hawaii's island of Kauai. The short film delves into to complex worlds of agrochemical biotech, GMOs, missile defense, stem cell and genetic research while posing the question: when science and nature collide, what will the future bring?

DOWNLOADABLE HI RES PHOTOS (Click link to view photo. Click "zip" to download)

[Pandora's Hope Movie Poster \(8x10\) / zip](#)

[Director Kit Farrell Head Shot / zip](#)

[Pandora's Hope Title Frame / zip](#)

[Kit Farrell with Hawaiian Kapuna Manulele / zip](#)

[Kit Farrell, Alan Ching, DDS, stem cell recipient Joe Howard and Geneticist James Croft / zip](#)

[Shark stem cell recipient Joe Howard shows his teeth / zip](#)

These photos and the poster are also viewable and downloadable from the movie website <http://pandoras-hope.com/media>



Pandora's Hope: Aia nô i ka nânâ`ana *(We'll see what the future brings)*

CREDITS

Director, Producer

Kit Farrell

Director of Photography

Larry LaSota

Camera

Larry LaSota

Wayne Zebzda

Editors

Michael Carter

Elaine LaSota

Camera Boat Captain

Dino D'Annibale

Animal Wranglers

Dennis Duarte

Richard Ruiz

Additional Footage

LookLook TV

Profile Productions

Featuring

(in alphabetical order)

Dustin Barca

Richard D. Beach

Jon Bernard

Michaela Boudreaux

David T. Camp

Jean S. Camp

Manulele Clark

Ed Coll

James Croft, PhD.

Warren L. Dastrup

Jeri DiPietro

Harvest T. Edmonds

Jim Edmonds

Joe Howard

Alan J. Ing, DDS

Gordon Labeledz, MD

Paul Massey

Richard Ruiz

Gerald J. Smith

Wil Welsh

Donald H. Wilson, Esq



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CREDITS - Con't

Soundtrack

"Friends"

Written by Jeff Rasmussen

Performed by Jeff Rasmussen

"Young Scientist"

Written by Jeff Rasmussen

Performed by Jeff Rasmussen

"Pihea"

Written by Richard Beach

Performed by Richard Beach

"Midnight Tears"

Written by Dot Beach

Performed by Dot Beach

"Reporter's Theme"

Written by Jeff Rasmussen

Performed by Jeff Rasmussen

"Mack the Knife"

Written by Bertolt Brecht & Kurt Weill

Performed by: Richard Beach, Warren

Dastrup, William Dick, David Kahaunaele, Jr.

"E Ho Mai"

Written by Auntie Edith Kanak'ole

Performed by Manulele Clark

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For more information:

<http://pandoras-hope.com>

<http://opensource-science.us>

<http://hawaii-seed.org/island-groups/gmo-free-kauai/>